

Decision 9/COP.13

Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 9/COP.12, which requests a review and assessment of the progress made by the secretariat in promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies,

Acknowledging that the implementation of the Convention benefits from strong and effective relationships that are able to leverage the appropriate synergies with organizations that have overlapping or convergent mandates,

Reaffirming the usefulness of the three land-based progress indicators as set out in decision 9/COP.12 for reporting under the Rio conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals, which are coherent with the progress indicators/metrics adopted in decision 22/COP.11, namely: (i) trends in land cover; (ii) trends in land productivity or functioning of the land; and (iii) trends in carbon stock above and below ground,

Recognizing the benefits that can be derived from collaboration with external bodies and experts to assist countries in monitoring and reporting on the three progress indicators/metrics,

Welcoming initiatives undertaken to address gender inequality and empower women and girls in the implementation of the Convention,

Reiterating that addressing gender inequality that contributes to land degradation would enhance the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Invites* the Group on Earth Observation to support the efforts of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in implementing the Convention by providing space-based information and in situ measurements to assist countries in fulfilling the reporting requirements for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 and fostering data access, national data capacity-building and the development of standards and protocols;

2. *Requests* the secretariat and appropriate Convention bodies and institutions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to:

(a) Continue working with the Interagency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators in its role as the custodian agency to finalize the methodology and data management protocols for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 and begin coordination related to national, regional and global reporting according to the protocols established within the Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework;

(b) Build on and strengthen collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and the Rio conventions secretariats, as well as development partners and relevant international organizations, to support gender mainstreaming at all levels, but especially at the national and subnational levels, activities on sand and dust storms, drought monitoring, preparedness and early warning systems, drought vulnerability assessments and drought risk mitigation measures;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, according to their respective mandates and within existing resources, to continue to fulfil their respective roles in established partnerships and any new partnerships that may be necessary in order to further enhance the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, and, if appropriate, to bring these partnerships to the attention of the Conference of the Parties for any necessary action;
4. *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on progress made in implementing this decision.

*10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017*